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ON THIS WEEKEND

A sister publication to **The Review**, Redwater, Alberta

Morinville Public School shows support on Teal Up Day for military children



By Shelley Winger

Morinville Public School was filled with a sea of teal this April as students and staff came together

to recognize and support military children during Teal Up Day, part of the Month of the Military Child.

Teal Up Day is a special initiative that

highlights the unique experiences of children in military families – many of whom face frequent moves, long separations from loved ones, and the challenges of having

a parent deployed. By wearing teal, the community shows solidarity and appreciation for their resilience.

Military children often adapt to new

schools, new communities, and changing routines throughout their lives. Despite these challenges, they develop strong

Continued on **page 6**




Morinville Public School photo

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Sturgeon Hockey Club to Hold AGM May 21

The Sturgeon Hockey Club (SHC) will hold its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Wednesday, May 21, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at the Morinville Community Cultural Centre. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

The AGM will include a vote on two proposed Special Resolutions to amend the club's bylaws. The proposed amendments include:

- The creation of a paid, non voting Manager of Administration & Communications position, consolidating several administrative and communications roles.
- The addition of a volunteer, non voting Social Media Director position to support club communications.

These proposals are intended to improve operational efficiency and enhance communication within the association. Full details of the proposed bylaw amendments have been provided to members in advance of the meeting in accordance with club bylaws and the Alberta Societies Act.

Advance registration is required to attend. The deadline to register is May 11, 2026. Only members in good standing are eligible to attend.

To complete the registration, please see the website at: sturgeonhockeyclub.com for details.



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Swing into Spring Show and Sale draws strong crowd in Morinville

By Haylee Winger



The Morinville & District Chamber of Commerce's Swing into Spring Show and Sale, presented by Smokehouse Grills & Power Equipment, drew a full house this year, with strong attendance and a wide range of exhibitors and activities.

Held April 25 and 26 at the Morinville Leisure Centre (MLC), the sold-out event welcomed approximately 1,900 visitors over the two days.

Additional support came from hall sponsors Town of Morinville and NAPA Autopro Morinville Repairs, along with bronze sponsor Meadows of Morinville.

Admission was free, and attendees had access to a variety of attractions, including a Family Fun Zone, a bouncy castle, a contractor's corner, food



Morinville-born author Rose Van Brabant displays her first three books - *Rusalka*, *The Meaning of Mischief Nights*, and *The Hands of Iris* - at the Swing into Spring Show and Sale. She is currently working on her fourth title.

trucks, and a special appearance by the popular character Stitch.

Chamber Manager Roberta Pawluk noted that about 70 per cent of exhibitors and market vendors were returning participants, reflecting strong ongoing support for the event.

This year's exhibitor lineup featured a broad cross-section of industries and services, ranging from home improvement, real estate, and auto repair to landscaping, plumbing and heating, wellness services, and non-profit organizations. Vendors

also represented areas such as crafts, pottery, waste management, renovations, hair and beauty, and even dog adoption, offering something for a wide range of interests.

Among the new participants was Hay There Farm, which showcased products including freeze-dried treats like strawberry crunch and mango crunch, as well as eggs, hay, and other farm goods.

More than 40 market vendors were also on site, offering items such as baked goods, juices, perogies, chocolate, jewelry, woodcraft, concrete décor,



Lucie Roy photos

Representatives of Hay There Farm take part in their first Swing into Spring Show and Sale, showcasing products from their family-run business.

and various handmade products.

The event continues to serve as a platform for small businesses, particularly those without a physical storefront, to connect with the community and promote their offerings. It also provided an opportunity for several new businesses to introduce themselves locally, as well as for one business to announce a relocation.

Author Rose Van Brabant presented her first three books - *Rusalka*, *The Meaning of Mischief Night*, and *The Hand of Iris* - and shared that she is currently working on a

fourth. She credits her early inspiration to her Grade 1 teacher, who read stories by Robert Munsch, as well as her studies at the Vancouver Film School.

Drawing on mythological themes, she published *Rusalka* in 2022, followed by *The Hand of Iris* in 2024, which was influenced by horror films. Her works are available in e-book, paperback, and hardcover formats.

Entertainment was also a highlight, with *One Red Nose Ten Happy Toes* bringing a large inflatable Stitch costume to the event on Sunday afternoon,



Joel Morin of Morin Repairs highlights his business's move to a new Morinville location during the Swing into Spring Show and Sale, where he was joined by Stitch on Sunday afternoon.

much to the delight of attendees.

Visitors also took advantage of the many promotional items available throughout the venue.

Items included vegetable scrubbers, reusable cutlery kits, sink drains, hearing aid cleaning kits, colour-changing cups won through a plinko game, free professional photos with a food bank donation, measuring tapes, sunglasses, pens, Canada pins, reusable car garbage bags, and numerous contest entries and informational handouts.

Higher Grounds Espresso Bar: Brewing coffee, community, and compassion in Morinville

By Shelley Winger



In a world where coffee shops often blend into a familiar rhythm of espresso shots and quiet corners, Higher Grounds Espresso Bar stands apart - not just for its specialty drinks and home-style meals, but for something more meaningful: its mission.

Nestled in the heart of Morinville, Higher Grounds is more than a café. It is a non-profit community hub where every cup of coffee poured and every sandwich served carries a deeper purpose. With 98 per cent of customers recommending



Rick Melvin at Higher Grounds Espresso Bar in Morinville.

the café, its impact is clearly felt beyond the menu.

At its core, Higher Grounds is driven by a commitment to giving back. A portion of its proceeds supports local initiatives, including youth programs, food banks, and community development efforts. For customers, this means a simple

morning coffee becomes an act of generosity - one that ripples throughout the community.

One of the café's most visible symbols of this spirit is its "Giving Tree," where each leaf represents a donated meal or drink available to those in need. It serves as a quiet but powerful reminder that care for



The "Giving Tree" at Higher Grounds Espresso Bar allows customers to purchase meals and drinks in advance for those in need in the Morinville community.

others can be woven into everyday spaces.

For some residents, initiatives like the Giving Tree make a tangible difference in their day-to-day lives.

By allowing customers to quietly contribute meals or drinks for others, the café has created a system rooted in dignity and care - one that reflects the values

of the community it serves.

Inside, the atmosphere reflects that same philosophy. Warm lighting, the scent of fresh baking, and the hum of conversation create an inviting space where people gather not just to eat, but to connect. Volunteers play a vital role in sustaining this environment, contributing their time as

baristas, bakers, and support staff.

Currently, Higher Grounds is inviting members of the community to get involved. The café is seeking volunteers to assist in a variety of roles, from food preparation to dishwashing. For many, it offers an opportunity not only to gain experience, but to be part of something larger than themselves.

In an era where businesses often focus solely on profit, Higher Grounds Espresso Bar offers an alternative model - one where success is measured in community impact, shared meals, and human connection.

For Morinville residents, it is not just a place to grab a coffee - it is a place where small acts of kindness are brewed daily.

Morinville trucker survives serious highway crash, calls attention to dangerous intersection

By Haylee Winger



Known locally as "Big Al," a Morinville trucker is counting himself lucky to be alive after a devastating accident left him severely injured.

The incident occurred on November 26 while Big Al was driving from Opal, approaching the intersection of Highway 642 and Highway 28. "All of a sudden, my truck got hit. It was like a bomb went off, it was just terrible," he recalled.

His truck, loaded with sand, was struck on the passenger side, sending it airborne. "I thought I was going to pass away, not knowing I had some angels around me," he said.

Help arrived in the form of good

Samaritans - Jennifer, Darren, and Daniel. Darren pulled him from the wreckage, while Jennifer stayed by his side, taking over until paramedics arrived. Daniel also assisted at the scene, offering support where he could. "They were going to call STARS, but luckily, an ambulance was nearby," Big Al said.

His injuries were severe: 14 broken ribs, a shattered arm requiring two pins and 12 screws, and 25 stitches. He spent 10 days in hospital and has limited memory of the immediate aftermath. "I'm just glad I am here. My doctor is amazed I'm even here," he said.

Big Al expressed deep gratitude toward those who helped save his life. "If it wasn't for the good Samaritans - Jennifer, Darren, and Daniel - I don't think I'd be here. They are



Big Al's truck, heavily damaged after the collision.



all heroes!" he said. Darren even re-entered the burning truck to retrieve Big Al's cell phone so he could call his wife.

In the aftermath of the crash, Big Al later reconnected with Jennifer, who shared a moment he does not remember. She asked if he recalled what he had said to her at the scene. When he told her he didn't, she replied that he had said, "I love you," and that she had responded, "I love you too."

Prior to his own crash, Big Al had

witnessed another accident at the same intersection - something that has stayed with him. Since his collision, he says he has continued to notice more accidents occurring in the area, raising concerns about safety at the intersection.

The traumatic

experience has left Big Al dealing with PTSD. "Right now, I don't want to get back into a big rig," he said, despite having driven professionally for 50 years without an accident. He continues physiotherapy as he works to regain a sense of normalcy.

Though the road

to recovery is both physically and emotionally challenging, Big Al remains grateful simply to have survived. Reflecting on everything that has happened, he hopes greater awareness can be brought to the dangers at the intersection where the crash occurred.

Morinville approves 1% municipal property tax increase for 2026

Town of Morinville press release

Morinville residents will see a modest municipal property tax increase in 2026 after Council approved a 1% tax rate adjustment at its April 28 meeting. The increase is lower than the 2.46% originally approved during budget deliberations and reflects stronger-than-expected assessment growth. Additional revenue

will be directed to capital reserves to support future infrastructure needs.

Background and Rate Impact

Earlier estimates projected total assessment growth of 4.5%. The finalized assessment roll reflects growth of approximately 8.2%, driven by both new development and increases in assessed property values. By

increasing the municipal tax rate by 1%, Council is able to allocate \$331,403 in additional revenue to capital reserves, strengthening the municipality's capacity to fund future capital priorities. The 1% increase is less than the originally budgeted 2.46% increase approved by Council in November.

Tax impacts reflect

Continued on page 7

Heads up for online readers

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Honouring 80 years of service and community impact, Member of Parliament Michael Cooper joined The Royal Canadian Legion, Morinville Branch 176, on April 25 to celebrate its 80th anniversary and recognize decades of dedicated support for Veterans, commitment to remembrance, and contributions to the Morinville community. The milestone event underscored the Branch's enduring legacy and the important role it continues to play in honouring those who have served. - **Michael Cooper MP photo**

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PUBLIC HEARING - BYLAW 1710/26

2026 PINNACLE VILLAGE OUTLINE PLAN AND REDISTRICTING BYLAW

Sturgeon County Council requests public input on proposed Bylaw 1710/26. The property owner wants to build a **100-lot residential neighbourhood** on their land in Sturgeon Valley (Lot 1 Block 1 Plan 182 1685). This land is currently districted (zoned) as AG - Agriculture District, which does not allow this type of development.

An Outline Plan was submitted in support of the redistricting application. The land must be redistricted before a subdivision application can be submitted. The proposed bylaw would change the zoning to a mix of:

- R7 - Transitional Valley Residential District
- POS - Public/Private Open Space District
- PU - Public Utility District

This is the second Outline Plan submitted for Pinnacle Village and proposes a **reduction in the number of lots from 144 to 100**. Learn more at sturgeoncounty.ca/public-hearing-bylaw-1710-26

Public Hearing details

The Public Hearing will be held in person and via video conference on: **Tuesday, May 12, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.** (or as soon as practical thereafter) at Sturgeon County Council Chambers (9613 100 St., Morinville)

Questions? Contact us!

Rebecca Schapansky
Planning and Development
587-404-9866
rschapansky@sturgeoncounty.ca



Important information about Public Hearings

Requirements for speakers

All speakers have five minutes to speak and are encouraged to provide a written copy of their submission before the Public Hearing.

Speaking in person

To speak at the Public Hearing in person, contact Legislative Services at 780-939-8029 to register.

Speak via videoconference (phone or video call-in)

To speak at the Public Hearing via videoconference, you must register by **May 11, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.** by contacting Legislative Services at 780-939-8029. This ensures you receive instructions to access the videoconference.

Written submissions

Email your written submission to Legislative Services at legislativeservices@sturgeoncounty.ca.

Written submissions are accepted up to the close of the Public Hearing. If making a written submission, you must include your name, state your interest in the matter (such as a County resident directly impacted by the proposed bylaw), and indicate if you are in favour of or opposed to the proposed bylaw.

Watching the Public Hearing

You can view the Public Hearing in person or online at sturgeoncounty.ca/CouncilMeetings.

To view the livestream, click on the meeting date on the calendar, then click on the video link.

By submitting comments on this bylaw, either orally or in writing, the personal information you provide may be recorded in the minutes of the public hearing or otherwise made public. This information is collected under section 4(c) of the Protection of Privacy Act (PPA). If you have any questions about the collection, use or disclosure of your personal information, please contact the Sturgeon County Access and Privacy Advisor at 780-939-1306 or accessandprivacy@sturgeoncounty.ca.



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- Incidents, advisories and emergencies
- Maintenance and construction activities
- Flaring
- Noise
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- Training

Teal Up Day

Continued from page 1

qualities such as resilience, independence, and adaptability. Recognizing their experiences helps build understanding and support within school communities like Morinville Public School.

Across Canada and beyond, schools take part in Month of the Military Child to ensure these students feel seen and valued. Initiatives like Teal Up Day not only celebrate their strength but also encourage classmates and educators to learn more about the realities of military family life and the importance of community support.

Throughout the week, Morinville Public School organized a variety



Morinville Public School photos



of activities to help students better understand and celebrate military families. The school's "Teal Up Week" included creative projects like dandelion-themed artwork - symbolizing the strength and adaptability of military children - as well as opportunities to learn more about their experiences.

On Teal Up Day itself, students proudly wore teal clothing and

accessories, transforming the school into a vibrant display of support. The Dandelion Club also participated in special activities, including a visit to Guthrie School, further strengthening connections within the community.

Teachers guided discussions and activities that emphasized empathy, appreciation, and awareness, helping students recognize the important role military families

play both locally and nationally. The week concluded with a strong sense of community pride, as students and staff reflected on the importance of inclusion and support for all families.

Morinville Public School continues to demonstrate how schools can create meaningful opportunities for students to learn, connect, and show kindness - one teal shirt at a time.



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On April 28, The Town of Morinville recognized Staff Sergeant Darcy McGunigal for his many years of dedicated service to Morinville and the surrounding region. As he enters retirement, the Town expressed its appreciation for his service, leadership, and lasting contributions to the safety and well-being of the community. - *Town of Morinville photo*

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Property tax

Continued from page 3

both the rate increase and changes in assessed property values:

- A home valued at \$396,351 is estimated to see an increase of approximately \$18.35 per month.
- A commercial property valued at \$1,008,268 is estimated to see an increase of approximately \$46.83 per month.

Individual taxpayers may see the municipal portion vary from the average projected

increase due to market adjustments and/or improvements made to their property.

These amounts do not include changes to the Homeland Housing requisition or the provincial education property tax payable directly to the Government of Alberta as part of the tax notice. In the 2026-2027 provincial budget, the Government of Alberta increased the education property tax requisition by \$457,139, or 10.7%, resulting in a 4.4% increase to residential education

property tax rates and a 4.3% increase to non-residential rates.

“Stronger-than-expected assessment growth, combined with Council’s established financial framework and disciplined financial management, allowed us to keep the increase lower than

planned while continuing to build capacity for future infrastructure investment,” said Michelle Hay, Chief Administrative Officer.

“This year’s tax rate reflects Council’s commitment to responsible planning and investing in the infrastructure our

community relies on. We are focused on maintaining strong services today while continuing to build a solid financial foundation for Morinville’s future. I appreciate the work of Council and Administration in getting us here,” said Simon Boersma, Morinville Mayor.



The Morinville Community High School senior badminton team gathers for a photo during the North Central Zone tournament, where they represented the school on and off the court. - Morinville High School photo



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Sturgeon County Dust Suppression



Sturgeon County offers three options for dust suppression to help reduce dust created by vehicle traffic on gravel roads. See our website for details on the three options.



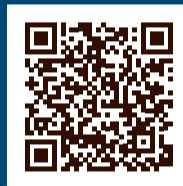
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PUBLIC HEARING – BYLAW 1709/26 WASTE MANAGEMENT REGULATION AMENDMENTS

Sturgeon County Council requests public input on proposed Bylaw 1709/26.

The County is looking to provide greater clarity on waste management facilities. To support this, the County is proposing amendments based on the following themes:

1. Modernize municipal land use definitions and align with provincial wording
2. Direct waste management facilities away from residential uses and agricultural operations
3. Regulate site level considerations such as setbacks, traffic, noise, dust, odour, etc.

Learn more at sturgeoncounty.ca/public-hearing-bylaw-1709-26

Public Hearing details

The Public Hearing will be held in person and via videoconference on **Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at 1 p.m.** (or as soon as practical thereafter) at Sturgeon County Council Chambers (9613 100 St., Morinville)

Questions? Contact us!

Jonathan Heemskerck
Planning and Development
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jheemskerck@sturgeoncounty.ca

Important information about Public Hearings

Requirements for speakers

All speakers have five minutes to speak and are encouraged to provide a written copy of their submission before the Public Hearing.

Speaking in person

To speak at the Public Hearing in person, contact Legislative Services at 780-939-8029 to pre-register.

Speak via videoconference

To speak at the Public Hearing via videoconference, you must register by **May 11, 2026 at 1 p.m.** by contacting Legislative Services at 780-939-8029. This ensures you receive instructions to access the videoconference.

Written submissions

Email your written submission to Legislative Services at legislativeservices@sturgeoncounty.ca.

Written submissions are accepted up to the close of the Public Hearing. If making a written submission, you must include your name, state your interest in the matter (such as a County resident directly impacted by the proposed bylaw), and indicate if you are in favour of or opposed to the proposed bylaw.

Watching the Public Hearing

You can view the Public Hearing in person or online at sturgeoncounty.ca/CouncilMeetings. To view the livestream, click on the meeting date on the calendar, then click on the video link.

By submitting comments on this bylaw, either orally or in writing, the personal information you provide may be recorded in the minutes of the public hearing or otherwise made public. This information is collected under section 4(c) of the Protection of Privacy Act (POPA). If you have any questions about the collection, use or disclosure of your personal information, please contact the Sturgeon County Access and Privacy Advisor at 780-939-1306 or accessandprivacy@sturgeoncounty.ca.



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